

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 15.10

SELECTIVE POSTERIOR RHIZOTOMY FOR SPASTICITY IN CEREBRAL PALSY

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Authority: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(i)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

63185 - 63190

II. DESCRIPTION

Selective or functional posterior rhizotomy, a modification of the posterior or dorsal root rhizotomy procedure, is a surgical procedure in which intraoperative electrostimulation is used to identify the nerve roots or rootlets adjacent to the spinal cord which are involved in spasticity - production circuits. These fibers are severed while normal fibers are preserved, with the goal of reducing the adverse effects of spasticity.

III. POLICY

Selective posterior rhizotomy for the treatment of spasticity in cerebral palsy may be cost-shared for patients with:

- A. Ambulatory potential.
- B. Severe spasticity without independent functions.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE October 1, 1990.

V. EXCLUSIONS

Selective posterior rhizotomy for patients with:

- A. Progressive neurological disorder
- B. Ataxia
- C. Athetosis

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Cost-sharing may be allowed for medically necessary pre- and post-operative diagnostic testing and evaluations, for patients with ambulatory function being considered for or following this type of surgery.

B. Posterior or dorsal root rhizotomy surgical procedures, or selective posterior rhizotomy surgical procedures performed to alleviate the symptoms associated with chronic pain may be considered for cost-sharing if determined to be medically necessary.

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